DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 361 625 CG 025 020

AUTHOR Drasby, Gail; And Others
TITLE Teens Parenting. Project Seed.
INSTITUTION Maine Center for Educational Services.
PUB DATE Jul 93
NOTE 8p.; For other titles in this series, see CG 025 019-026.
PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Adolescents; *Early Parenthood; High Schools; High School Students; *Parent Child Relationship; *Parent Education; *Pregnancy

ABSTRACT

One of eight papers from Project Seed, this paper describes Teens Parenting, a program that brings together a group of parenting teenagers for a 20-week learning experience using the "Nurturing Program for Teenage Parents and Their Families." It is noted that the program is open to all teenage parents in the area, whether or not they are currently enrolled in the school system. Four steps are included in the procedures and instructions section. Facilitators are encouraged to: (1) familiarize themselves with the "Nurturing Program for Teenage Parents and Their Families" curriculum; (2) formulate a list of teenage parents in their school or community and invite them to join the program; (3) hold an informal orientation session for parents and their children to meet the class facilitators, other teenage parents, and the child care providers; and (4) conduct successive class meetings by following the "Nurturing Program for Teenage Parents and Their Families" curriculum. The program purposes, goals, and objectives are discussed; anticipated outcomes are described. Resources needed to implement the program are listed and the project cost is estimated to be between $300 and $500 for a class of six to eight teenage parents and their children. (NB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 361 625

"TEENS PARENTING"

Gail Drasby, Cindy Freeman-Cyr,
Wendy Pullen
Foxcroft Academy
147 West Main Street
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426
(207) 564-6544
(207) 783-9703 (ME-Link)

CG025020

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
G. Pullen
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

Project SEED
the Center
Maine Center for Educational Services

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

TEENS PARENTING

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Teens Parenting is a response to the needs of teen parents in our community to feel support in their challenging role of parent and student. We bring together a group of parenting teens for a twenty week learning experience utilizing the **Nurturing Program for Teenage Parents and their Families.** We offer high school credit, child care, and a time for them to share with other adolescents who have parenting in common. It is a unique opportunity for those who struggle with the special needs for being both a teenager and a parent at the same time. Some students who are marginally connected to school, recommit to meeting their educational needs.

PARTICIPANTS

Teens Parenting is open to all teen parents in our area. Teens from our school district and the three surrounding districts are invited to attend. Students are welcome whether they are day students, adult education students, or not currently enrolled in school.

Wendy Pullen, R.N., from Foxcroft Academy's Health Center, Cindy Freeman-Cyr from S.A.D. #68's Students-At-Risk Program, and Gail Drasby of Penquis C.A.P.'s Transition Into Parenthood Program came together 3 years ago to support parenting teens and have since continued to work as co-facilitators.

High school students volunteer as child care providers. They commit to provide this service for the duration of the program entering our school system.

PROCEDURES & INSTRUCTIONS

1) Familiarize yourself with **The Nurturing Program for Teenage Parents and Their Families** curriculum by Stephen J. Bavolek, Ph.D. and Juliana Dellinger Bavolek, M.D. We can supply you with information about ordering the materials.

2) Formulate a list of teen parents in your school or community. This can be done by working with school personnel, someone from your local adolescent pregnancy project, or public health nurses. About 6 weeks prior to the start of classes, send a letter to prospective participants asking for a response from them regarding their interest in joining such a group. Make personal contacts with parenting students who are currently enrolled. Follow up with a telephone call to those who do not respond.

3) Hold an informal orientation session for parents and their children to meet class facilitators, other teen parents and the child care providers. Provide an overview of the program, its goals and objectives, and expectations of students. This is especially important for students who are pursuing high school credit. Be sure to serve refreshments at this initial meeting and have toys available for the children to play with.

4) Successive class meetings follow the Nurturing Program curriculum with various outside speakers invited to present on special topics. Many times speakers are invited at the request of students.

WHO MIGHT CONSIDER USING THIS PROGRAM

Teachers who currently have pregnant and/or parenting teens in their classes or know any teens who are no longer enrolled in school might have an interest in developing such a program. An educator with expertise in parenting and health-related issues, as well as concerned and sensitivity for the teen parents' unique set of social issues, might consider collaborating with community providers to adapt this program.

PURPOSES/GOAL/OBJECTIVES

It is our goal to provide a comfortable and secure environment for students to speak freely about the challenges and rewards of being a teen parent. Recognizing that teens are a high risk group of parents, we promote positive, healthy, and nurturing interactions between teens and their children. Within this context, we believe that each teen and his or her child is a special person, and brings a unique set of experiences which enriches the group. The importance of building a strong and healthy family is stressed. We teach parents that hitting is not an acceptable form of discipline.

OUTCOME

This project is a very challenging undertaking. At the same time, it is extremely rewarding to be involved with the teens and their children, working together to create stronger and healthier family units. In addition to teaching basic parenting skills, we address self esteem and meeting one's own needs. One of the most important outcomes is that these teens feel that school can be a flexible and friendly place. This is crucial if we believe it is important for these students to commit to education. We look ahead and see that in just a few years their children will be enrolled in our school system.

TIME DURATION

Teens Parenting lasts for 20 weeks, meeting once per week for 2 hours right after school. This past year we began our program in mid-January and ended in early June.

RESOURCES

MATERIALS & FACILITIES

We use Stephen J. Bavolek and Juliana Dellinger Bavolek's **Nurturing Program for Teenage Parents and Their Families** curriculum. For each student we purchase a **Parent Handbook** as well as a **Nurturing Book for Babies and Children**. In addition, each facilitator has an **Activities Manual** and **Implementation Manual**. One room (preferably carpeted) with lots of open space is needed for child care, and

a regular classroom is needed for the parent group.

OUTSIDE RESOURCES

We rely on volunteers to assist with child care, and find this works well. Often volunteers are solicited from service clubs. A volunteer from a local church made homemade snacks most weeks this past year, which helped with our budget. Prior to the start of *Teens Parenting*, we collect used toys and furniture for our child care room. During the course of our program, we invite various speakers from the community to come talk to the class. Speakers have included a Family Planning educator; someone from Child Development Services - The GUIDE Program; Womancare, our local battered women's project; and an attorney who did a presentation on legal issues regarding single parents.

PROJECT COST

The bare bones cost of this program covers books and materials. For a class of 6-8 teen parents and their children, a budget of $300.00-$500.00 is reasonable. If stipends are made available to staff and volunteers, and if transportation is a need to be met, the cost will rise accordingly.

CONCLUSION

We have a long-standing commitment to assist teens who have chosen to be parents to be the best that they can be. Providing a focused time each week for parenting teens and their children to come together to learn and support one another has

been an important opportunity for families, students and facilitators who have participated. Teen parents and their children are present in every community. As schools and communities seek ways to work together to more effectively reach families at risk, this special group of community members provides a wonderful opportunity for cooperative efforts. We look forward to sharing our experiences and gaining skills and knowledge through the process of sharing.